

5 June 2000

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Dr. Jane E. Henney
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
5600 Fishers Ln.
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Doctor Jane Henney:

I am writing in accordance with rulemaking dockets #00P-1211/CP1 and Docket No. 99N-4282 concerning genetically engineered foods and other matters.

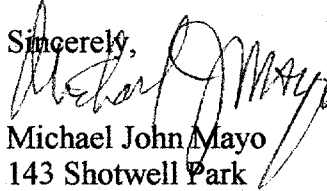
Dr. Henney, please work to require that all genetically engineered foods be tested for safety before marketing, then labeled for consumer information.

The Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act mandates that genetically engineered foods be subject to premarket safety testing and labeling. Given the frequent and diverse questions raised by scientists about the longer term effects of genetically modified plants, as well as antibiotics fed to animals, it seems imperative that USDA require that all such foods be safety-tested.

In 1992, the FDA received much comment from the public demanding mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods, yet the agency refused to act. A recent Time Magazine poll found that 81% of American consumers believe genetically engineered foods should be labeled. We have a right to know what is in the food that we are purchasing, as well as how it was produced.

Please take these actions so that we consumers will be able to make an educated choice about the foods we eat.

Sincerely,


Michael John Mayo
143 Shotwell Park
Syracuse, New York
13206

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